

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SAM-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 SAJ-01 EB-07 COME-00 TRSE-00 OMB-01 STR-04

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R 211733Z JAN 76

FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7054

INFO AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY LISBON

USMISSION NATO

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 PARIS 01966

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, SP, FR, EEC, US

SUBJECT: VISIT OF SPANISH FOREIGN MINISTER TO FRANCE

REF: (A) PARIS 1041 (B) BONN 00544 (C) LUXEMBOURG 0031

(D) LONDON 00688 (E) EC BRUSSELS 00544

1. BEGIN SUMMARY. IN COURSE BRIEF PARIS STOP JANUARY
10, SPANISH FONMIN AREILZA HAD RELAXED TWO-HOUR DIS-
CUSSION WITH SAUVAGNARGUES. AS ELSEWHERE, HE FOCUSED
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ON DOMESTIC REFORMS AND SPAIN'S INTEREST IN EC AND NATO

MEMBERSHIP. NEW POINTS AS FAR AS WE CAN JUDGE CONCERN
PLANS FOR LEGITIMIZATION OF JUAN CARLOS'S SUCCESSION
AND EXPECTATION THAT USSR WILL IN VERY NEAR FUTURE
REESTABLISH DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH SPAIN. END
SUMMARY.

2. DELARBRE, QUAIS SPANISH DESK OFFICER HAS (AT LONG LAST) GIVEN US ACCOUNT AREILZA'S STOPOVER IN PARIS WHICH DOVETAILS IN MOST RESPECTS REFERENCED REPORTING. IN HIS MEETING WITH SAUVAGNARGUES HE PUT PRINCIPAL EMPHASIS, AS HE HAD ELSEWHERE, ON SPAIN'S PLANS FOR REFORM. THUS AREILZA SPOKE AT LENGTH OF MADRID'S INTENTION TO BRING ABOUT, NOT INSTANT BUT CERTAINLY STEADY EVOLUTION TOWARD A DEMOCRATIC RESTORATION. THIS PROCESS, LEADING UP TO 1976 LOCAL AND 1977 LEGISLATIVE ELECTIONS, WOULD REQUIRE CONSTITUTIONAL CHANGES BY REFERENDUM ON ISSUES SUCH AS UNIVERSAL SUFFRAGE, THE RIGHT TO ASSEMBLY, MODIFICATION OF THE PENAL CODE AND THE LEGITIMIZATION OF THE MONARCHY.

3. REGARDING SPANISH LEGISLATURE, DELABRE REPORTS THAT AREILZA FORESEES PROVISIONS WHICH WOULD PERMIT FORMATION OF ONLY FOUR OR FIVE MAJOR PARTIES, TO ASSURE SUFFICIENT STABILITY AND TO AVOID COMPLEX SMALL PARTY ARRANGEMENTS. IN SUCH RESHUFFLING, THE SPANISH COMMUNIST PARTY IS TO REMAIN DEFINITELY EXCLUDED.

4. AS REGARDS THE MONARCHY, AREILZA INFORMED SAUVAGNARGUES THAT AS A FIRST STEP THE COUNT OF BARCELONA WILL (DELARBRE SAID "HAD AGREED TO") RENOUNCE ALL HIS CLAIMS IN FAVOR OF DON JUAN. THIS WILL PAVE WAY FOR CONSTITUTIONAL REFORM REPLACING FRANCO'S ARRANGEMENTS, TECHNICALLY FURTHER LEGITIMIZING JUAN CARLOS AND ASSURING THE SUCCESSION TO HIS CHILDREN.

5. DELARBRE WAS CONSIDERABLY LESS SPECIFIC ABOUT DETAILS OF THIS EXCHANGE ON EC AND NATO MEMBERSHIP, WHICH AREILZA, IN HIS PUBLIC STATEMENTS HERE (REPORTED REFTEL A), SAID HE CLEARLY DESIRED. DELARBRE WOULD CONFIDENTIAL

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FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7055

INFO AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 02 OF 02 PARIS 01966

ONLY SAY THAT FIRST, MOST IMPORTANT STEP WILL BE FOR
THE NINE TO "STUDY" THE POSSIBILITY OF REOPENING THE
EC-SPANISH TRADE NEGOTIATIONS. FRANCE SUPPORTS SPANISH
EC MEMBERSHIP IN PRINCIPLE, IF AS SAUVAGNARGUES SAID
PUBLICLY, DEMOCRATIZATION IN SPAIN CONTINUES. HOWEVER,
DELARBRE THOUGHT PROCESS MIGHT WELL TAKE FIVE YEARS.

6. AS REGARDS SPAIN'S DESIRE TO JOIN NATO WE ARE TOLD
THAT AREILZA EXPRESSED HOPE HERE AS IN BONN
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(REFTEL B) THAT FIRST NEW IMPETUS MIGHT COME THROUGH A
REFERENCE TO NATO IN THE US-SPANISH BASE AGREEMENT. IN
VIEW OF SPAIN'S KEY GEOGRAPHIC LOCATION DELARBRE THOUGHT
ITS NATO MEMBERSHIP MAY NOT POSE AS GREAT A PROBLEM, AT
LEAST IN FRANCE, AS USED TO BE THE CASE, PARTICULARLY
ONCE SPAIN'S DEMOCRATIZATION IS REASONABLY ASSURED AND
EC QUESTION HAS BEEN SETTLED.

7. DELARBRE ALSO VOLUNTEERED THAT GOS EVIDENTLY EXPECTS
USSR (WHICH NOW IS SAID TO HAVE ONLY A COMMERCIAL
MISSION IN MADRID) TO ESTABLISH FULL DIPLOMATIC RELAT-
IONS WITH SPAIN IN "VERY NEAR FUTURE". MOSCOW
APPARENTLY WANTS TO TAKE THIS STEP QUICKLY BEFORE
JUAN CARLOS BECOMES TOO DEEPLY
EMBROILED IN INTERNAL STRUGGLES WITH THE SPANISH
LEFT, A TIME WHEN SUCH A SOVIET STEP WOULD AGAIN
BECOME TACTICALLY INOPPORTUNE.
RUSH

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